(b) if so, whether any review of the performance of MTNL have been undertaken during the past few months; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, what steps Government propose to take to improve the functioning and services of MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the performance and services rendered by MTNL, Delhi are regularly monitored and reviewed at all levels.

As a result of monitoring, different steps are taken for further improvement of the services. The various steps already taken/being taken are placed at Statement.

Statement

Various steps already taken/being taken as a result of monitoring

1. Expansion of network.

2. Replacing old and worn out equipment by latest new technology digital equipment for providing better and reliable services.

3. Introduction of Value Added Services like ISDN services, Wireless in local loop etc.

4. Use of pair gain systems for clearing of technically non feasible areas.

5. For the conveniance of customers for easy payment of bills, different facilities have been introduced such as voluntary deposit scheme, Mobile vans for collections of bills, deposit the bills in banks etc.

6. Computerised directory dial up service is available for computer users.

7. Fault repair service is computerised.

8. Customer service centres have been opened for better customer interface. More such centres are also likely to be provided.

9. For speedy redressal of grievances, Telephone Adalats and Open House Sessions are held regularly.

गुजरात सर्किल की परामर्शदात्री समिति के सदस्य

20. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) परामर्शदात्री समिति के जिला-वार किन-किन नाम-निर्देशित सदस्यों से गुजरात सर्किल, अहमदाबाद के मुख्य प्रबंधक को गत चार महीनों के दौरान पत्र प्राप्त हुए हैं तथा प्रत्येक सदस्य से कितने-कितने पत्र प्राप्त हुए हैं;

(ख) सदस्यों द्वारा अपने पत्राचार के माध्यम से क्या-क्या मुद्दे उठाए गये हैं और इन मुद्दों की विशेषताएं क्या है;

(ग) मुख्य महाप्रबंधक की उन पर प्रतिक्रिया क्या है और उन पर उठाये गये कदमों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि अब तक कोई कदम नहीं उठाए गए है तो जन-शिकायतों और सुझावों पर उनके द्वारा अब तक कोई कदम न उठाये जाने के क्या कारण है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Revision of the STD Time Slab

21. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the STD time slab thereby making the STD calls costlier;

(b) if so, the reasons for changing the STD time slab; and

(c) the steps taken to restore the *status-quo* prevailing before the revision in timing?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The changes in the STD tariff effective from 15th February' 97 are as below:

Time	Rates prior to 15.2.97	Revised Rates
0.6.00—07.00	1/2	1/3 (higher concession)
20.30—21.00	1/2	1/3 (higher concession)
21.00—23.00	1/4	1/3 (reduced concession)

(b) the changes have been made to reduce the heavy traffic congestion from 21.00 Hrs. onwards.

(c) At Present there is no such proposal under consideration.

मढ़ी, रोहतांग और खोकेसर में डूरसंचार सुविधा

22. श्री महेश्वर सिंह: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि प्रतिवर्ष लाखों पर्यटक रोहतांग दर्रे की यात्रा करते हैं किन्तु वहां पर संचार सुविधाएं उपलब्ध न होने के कारण उन्हें घोर असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार मढ़ी, रोहतांग और खोकेसर को उपग्रहीय (सैटेलाइट) सुविधा उपलब्ध कराएगी;

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब तक; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, हां।

(ग) 1998-99 के दौरान खोकेसर में एन॰ सी॰ पी॰ सी॰ सहित एक्सचेंज का प्रस्ताव है, बशर्ते उपस्कर उपलब्ध हों। वर्ष 1998 के पर्यटक सीजन जब अधिक संख्या में पर्यटक आते हैं, के दौरान मढ़ी और रोहतांग में वी॰ सैट (बहुत छोटा सैटेलाइट) संस्थापित करने की व्यवहार्यता की पुनरीक्षा की जाएगी।

(घ) उपर्युक्त (ग) के उत्तर को देखते हुए लागू नहीं होता।

Death of N.C.C. Cadets in Yamuna Barrage near Dehradun

23. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA:
SHRI K. R. MALKANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eleven NCC Cadets drowned and several others injured in Yamuna Barrage near Vikasnagar, Dehradun recently and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the inquiry into the incident has since been completed and if so, the details of findings thereof;

(c) the details of compensation paid to kith and kin of the victims; and

(d) the action taken against those found guilty for the incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) The Delhi Directorate of National Cadet Corps (NCC) had organised an annual training camp at Vikas Nagar (near Dak Pathar) Dehradun, UP, from 28th May to 8th June, 1997 in which 789 NCC Cadets from Delhi were participating. On 6th June, 1997, at about 11000 hours, 80 Cadets entered the main channel of the Yamuna river for bathing. At the time of their entry, the water level was very low.

After about half an hour, these Cadets were swept away by a strong current which was caused due to release of water by opening of the three gates of Dak Pathar Barrage. The NCC Officers, staff, other Cadets and the local villagers tried to rescue these Cadets from drowning. Though 69 Cadets could be rescued, 11